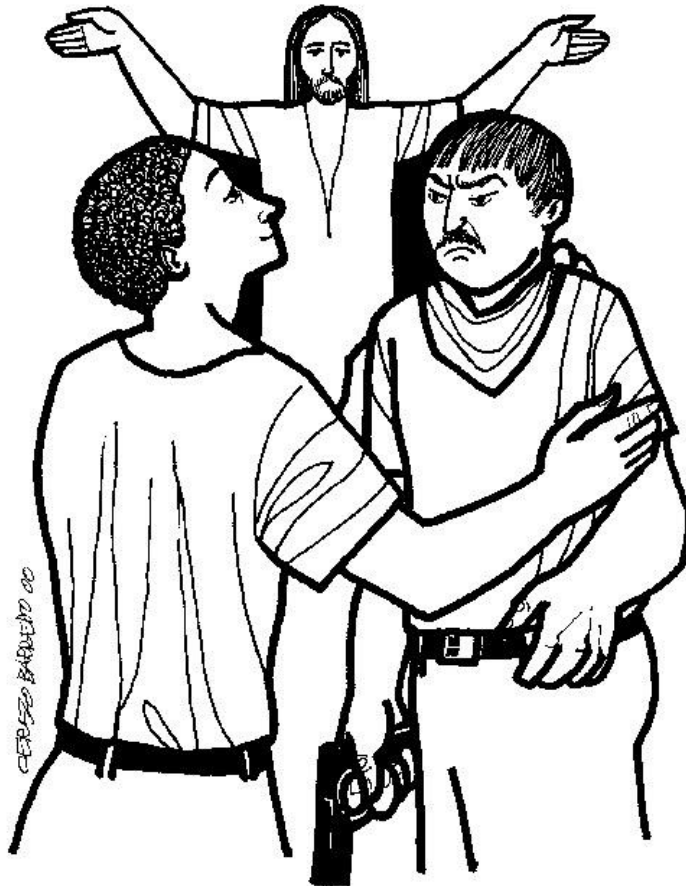


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4856 WAYNE ROAD
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202
(717) 267-2266

EMAIL: info@solomonslutheran.org
WEB SITE: www.solomonslutheran.org
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 23, 2025

February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Partita on "Hyfrydol"*

Introduction/Chorale and Andante - Charles Callahan

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;**

**we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (ELW 707)



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - ings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹ Do not be provoked by ¹ evildoers;
do not be jealous of those ¹ who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither ¹ like the grass,
and like the green grass ¹ fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the LORD ¹ and do good;
dwell in the land and ¹ find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight ¹ in the LORD,
who shall give you your ¹ heart’s desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust ¹ in the LORD,
and see what ¹ God will do.

⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear ¹ as the light
and the justice of your case like the ¹ noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait ¹ patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in ¹ evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek
refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.

⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Pastor Richard Jorgensen*

***Please stand as you are able for the final verse**

HYMN OF THE DAY *In All Our Grief (ELW 615)*



1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you.
2 Help us to put a - side the an - gry word,
3 You did not e - ven spare your on - ly Son.
4 God, when we suf - fer all that we can bear,



O God, you know all that we think or do,
the clen - ching fist, the wish and will to hurt.
He lived our griefs and bore all e - vil done,
then let us know that you in truth are near



you know the pain we put each oth - er through.
Teach us the way in which love best is served.
but through his cross, re - dem - tion has been won.
and will not leave us lost in all our fear.

Refrain



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, grant us peace.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
Music: FREDERICKTOWN, Charles R. Anders, b. 1929
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

REPRINTED UNDER ONELICENSE #A-71900. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

***CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(Please respond)*

P: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Blessed by the Bread, Graced by the Wine* Mary Kay Beall

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

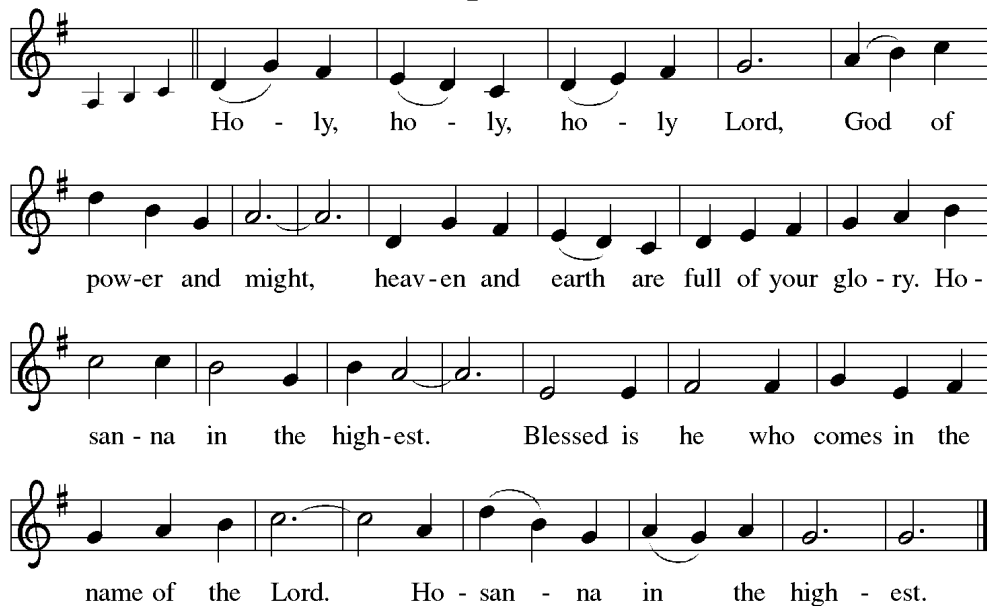
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, share in this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW 481)



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music.

Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Used by Permission. CCLI #11066173

COMMUNION HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW 656)



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

***BLESSING**

The world now is too dangerous
and too beautiful for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone.
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.
May your hands be so blessed
that everything you touch is a sacrament.
Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.
May your feet be so blessed you run
to those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened,
so set on fire, that your love,
your love, changes everything.
May God bless you in this sending, +Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (ELW 608)



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
REPRINTED / PODCAST / STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE
#A-719004 and CCLI #11066173. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SERVING TODAY

Supply Pastor.....	Pastor Richard Jorgensen, Jr.
Cell Phone Number	717-357-3814
Email Address	mallwein211@gmail.com
Church Office Email Address	<u>office@solomonslutheran.org</u>
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Larry Socks
Acolyte	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Bonney Coldsmith
Securing Offering.....	Ron Coldsmith & Rich McEntire
Communion Set-Up.....	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Bread	Linda Berberich
Communion Assist	Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday	39

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in celebration of Wayne Dale's 80th birthday given by Marjorie and family.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Today we welcome Pastor Richard Jorgensen, Jr., Director for Evangelical Mission, Lower Susquehanna Synod ELCA, and a member of our bishop's staff. Pastor Jorgensen will preach the sermon at worship and will stay for our Congregation Meeting.

Prayer requests for the following: *Kaitlyn Dovey, Angela Puchalo, Katelyn Mary Dodge, Jim Troutman, Charles Carl, Fran Stouffer, Marty Wenger, Don Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Bonnie Hudson, Becky Ensinger, Sam Mull, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.*

Please Be Aware: *We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.*

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

February 24 - W&M 6pm

27 - Choir 7pm

If anyone has Palm branches from last Palm Sunday, please bring them to the church and leave them in the Sunay School room. These will be burned and used for ashes this Ash Wednesday.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary still has discount cards available for \$5.00. Cards are good until Sept. 1, 2025. All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. Lots of great places to save. See Becky Pecha if you would like to have a card.

There will be a Congregation Meeting today after the worship service to approve the 2025 annual report.

Communion Cards – to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

Choir rehearsal - Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. New members are most welcome to join us. We usually rehearse for an hour. See Mary-Jo Bedsworth or any choir member if you have questions.

The 2025 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information.

The 2025 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room. Please sign up for as many as you can.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has cookbooks for sale, \$15 each. Lots of great recipes! All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. If interested, see Becky Pecha, Frances Reichard, Margie Dale, or Bonney Coldsmith.

Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Mike 's Bible study is held every Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We conclude at 9:50 a.m., to prepare for worship. We look at one of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. If you cannot join us every week, please join us when you are able! The Bible is our Book of Faith!

Copies of today's sermon can be found in the office room at the rear of the worship space. Pick one up before service if this will be helpful in hearing the sermon; or, pick one up to take home if you wish to use it reflect on throughout this upcoming week.

Power Pack Meals: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

If you are not taking your altar flowers home, please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

The prelude this morning is part of a partita written by Charles Callahan. In the second part, *Andante*, in the composer's notes, he wrote "written in homage to J.S. Bach," as it is in the style of some of Bach's more "ornamented" compositions.

Our communion hymn this morning, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," was written by John Fawcett (1740-1817). Fawcett was an English Baptist minister serving a rather poor country church when he received a call to serve a larger and more prestigious church in London. After preaching his farewell sermon and loading his luggage on wagons, his congregation pleaded with him to reconsider and remain their pastor. He decided he would rather stay with his fellowship in the smaller country church. Fawcett apparently wrote this hymn to commemorate his choice to turn down prestige and profit and remain at the poorer, humbler church in Wainsgate. He served as their pastor for the remainder of his life. The theme of this hymn is the fellowship of Christian believers. It is often used as a closing prayer for many gatherings. (*Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins*; Austin Lovelace, p. 18 and Christianity.com).

Our sending hymn this morning, "Softly and Tenderly," originally known as "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling," is a classic invitation hymn from the 19th century. It was written by Will Lamartine Thompson (1847-1909) who began as a composer of gospel, secular, and patriotic songs. Due to earlier songs being rejected by other publishers, Thompson formed his own music publishing company and "Softly and Tenderly" was first published in a collection titled *Sparkling Gems Nos. 1 and 2 Combined*. The hymn quickly became popular and was published in many church hymnals. After becoming a successful song writer, Thompson dedicated himself to writing Christian songs. A simple and sincere man, he felt people in rural areas seldom had anyone come to minister to them. He loaded an upright piano in a two-horse wagon and went into the countryside to sing and play his songs in the Midwest. Thompson was inspired to devote himself to writing while attending a meeting by popular evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899). When Moody was dying in the hospital he told Thompson, "Will, I would rather have written 'Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling' than anything I have been able to do in my whole life." (*Then Sings My Soul*, Book 2; Robert J. Morgan p.182).

EASTER FLOWERS - 2025

Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Easter Flowers is asked to fill out the following form and return it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with cash or a check made payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Easter Flowers." Flowers will be in the church on Sunday, April 20, 2025, and can be taken home that day, or call the office 717 267-2266 to make other arrangements.

The deadline to order Easter Flowers is March 23!

*The Easter Flowers in
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
has been donated by:*

_____ *(name)*

Daffodils (6" pot)..... \$8.00
Yellow _____

Tulips (6 bulbs)\$8.00
Red _____ Yellow _____ Purple _____

Lilies.....\$9.00 White _____



Total amount enclosed _____ Total plants ordered _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____